

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07 INR-07

LAB-04 NSAE-00 SIL-01 CU-02 SS-15 NSC-05 SP-02 EUR-12

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R 231330Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2607

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 SAN JOSE 0340

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: ELAB, CS

SUBJECT: DOHERTY VISIT: GOCR PROPOSALS FOR LABOR PROGRAM

REF: SAN JOSE 302

1. BEGIN SUMMARY: GOCR PLANNING FOR A NEW LABOR PROGRAM INCLUDE COSTA RICAN-PROVIDED FUNDS TO SUPPORT FULL-TIME CCTD SECRETARY -GENERAL AND THREE ADVISERS. GOCR WILL FOUND A NEW INDEPENDENTLY CHARTERED ASSOCIATION THROUGH WHICH GOVERNMENT, PRIVATE SECTOR, AND ORGANIZATIONS SUCH AS AIFLD CAN ALSO PROVIDE FUNDS ON CONTRACT BASIS FOR SPECIFIC PROGRAMS. GOCR INITIATIVES REPRESENT A SIGNIFICANT BREAKTHROUGH: A COMMITMENT TO A STRATEGY TO THWART RECENT COMMUNIST INROADS IN LABOR. UNTIL GOVERNMENT CAN GET ITS NEW STRATEGY IMPLEMENTED, IT WANTS AIFLD TO CONTINUE PRESENT PROGRAM. APPROVAL TO SELECT ORGANIZERS FOR TRAINING IN U.S. AND SUBSEQUENT SUPPORT IN COSTA RICA OUT OF AIFLD PRIVATE, NON-GOVERNMENT FUNDS IS REQUESTED. END SUMMARY.

2. IN JANUARY 21 MEETING WITH VICE PRESIDENT CASTILLO AND MINISTER OF LABOR MORALES, DOHERTY AND PARTY, AMBASSADOR, AND EMBOFF WERE PRESENTED WITH GOCR PROPOSALS FOR AIFLD ASSISTED LABOR PROGRAMS IN COSTA RICA.

3. MINISTER OF LABOR BEGAN PRESENTATION WITH ANALYSIS
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OF CCTD SITUATION, NOTING THAT EXECUTIVE BOARD OF THIS UNION DOES NOT REPRESENT LARGE UNIONS (TWO MEMBERS HAVE NO UNION BACKING) AND IS COMPOSED OF MINI-UNIONS; THEREFORE, THIS NON-REPRESENTATIVE COMPOSITION MUST BE CHANGED. MINISTER

OF LABOR ALSO POINTED OUT THAT CCTD NEEDS FULL-TIME EXECUTIVE LEADERSHIP AND SPECIALIZED ADVISERS--ON SALARIES, LEGISLATION, LEGAL AND ECONOMIC MATTERS. VEHICLES, AND EDUCATIONAL MATERIALS AND PUBLICATIONS ARE ALSO NEEDED. IN RESPONSE TO QUERY, MINISTER OF LABOR SAID THAT GOCR ASSISTS CCTD WITH ABOUT \$9,000/YEAR. OTHER UNIONS HELPED ARE CHRISTIANS (A SMALL SUM; THEY RECEIVE OUTSIDE HELP) AND CADT (ABOUT \$63/MONTH). MOST IMPORTANT CCTD NEED AT THIS TIME, MINISTER CONCLUDED, IS FULL-TIME LEADERSHIP, AND CHANGE IN CCTD EXECUTIVE BOARD TO MAKE IT MORE REPRESENTATIVE.

4. VICE PRESIDENT CASTILLO EXPLAINED THAT GOCR, IN MAKING DECISION TO MOVE POSITIVELY AND DECISIVELY IN LABOR ARENA, IS PLANNING TO FOUND AN INDEPENDENTLY CHARTERED ASSOCIATION WHICH WILL BE SUPPORTED BY THE GOVERNMENT AND PERHAPS MEMBERS OF THE COSTA RICAN BUSINESS COMMUNITY. THIS NEW ASSOCIATION WOULD BE EMPOWERED TO ENTER INTO CONTRACTS WITH INSTITUTIONS LIKE AIFLD TO WORK WITH DEMOCRATIC LABOR FORCES, THE NATIONAL UNIVERSITY (WHERE LEFTIST BREAKTHROUGHS HAVE BEEN A HEADACHE FOR THE ODUBER GOVERNMENT AND WHERE GOVERNMENT PLANNING COUNTER-MEASURES), AND THE GOVERNMENT ITSELF. ALSO, THROUGH THIS ASSOCIATION, COSTA RICAN GOVERNMENT FUNDS WILL BE CHANNELED TO THE DEMOCRATS. SALARIES FOR A FULL-TIME CCTD SECRETARY-GENERAL AND KEY ADVISERS WOULD BE PROVIDED BY THE GOCR. CASTILLO SAID GOCR PREPARED TO SPEND \$25,000-\$30,000/YEAR ON SUCH A PERMANENT, COMPLETELY LOCALLY FUNDED STAFF. GOCR WOULD LOOK TO AIFLD AND OTHER COUNTRY INSTITUTIONS (PERHAPS GERMAN, JAPANESE, BRITISH, OR FRENCH) FOR ASSISTANCE IN SPECIFIC PROGRAMS, AND CONTRACTS WOULD BE ENTERED INTO.

5. AMBASSADOR AND DOHERTY APPLAUDED THIS APPROACH AND SAID WE COULD WORK WITH IT. FOR TIME BEING, HOWEVER, VICE PRESIDENT CASTILLO SUGGESTED THAT AIFLD CONTINUE TO WORK ON EXISTING PROGRAM (WHICH COMPLEMENTS NEW CONFIDENTIAL

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APPROACH) UNTIL COSTA RICANS WORK OUT DETAILS AND MODALITIES OF THE NEW ASSOCIATION. IN REVIEWING PRESENT AIFLD PROGRAM (ROUGHLY \$100,000, OF WHICH ROUGHLY \$50,000 IS FOR PROGRAM), CASTILLO INDICATED THAT THE DEMOCRATIC LABOR MOVEMENT MIGHT WELL NEED ANOTHER \$50,000 FOR ADDITIONAL PROGRAM ACTIVITIES IN THE NEAR FUTURE UNDER THE NEW ARRANGEMENT, AND HE ASKED THAT WE GIVE THOUGHT TO SUCH A FIGURE FOR PLANNING PURPOSES.

6. VICE PRESIDENT CASTILLO POINTED OUT THAT GOCR WOULD BE ABLE TO WORK WITH A POLITICALLY INDEPENDENT CCTD; HE STATED

THAT GOVERNMENT'S INTEREST IS TO
MAINTAIN A DEMOCRATIC LABOR MOVEMENT IN COSTA RICA AND
TO THWART COMMUNIST ADVANCES. (PRESIDENT ODUBER MADE
SAME POINT PREVIOUS DAY WHEN HE RELATED THAT LEADER OF
CALDERONISTA OPPOSITION VILLALOBOS CONCURRED WITH
PRESIDENT IN NEED TO JOIN FORCES TO THWART COMMUNIST
ADVANCES IN LABOR).

7. VICE PRESIDENT CASTILLO SUMMED UP GOCR LABOR
STRATEGY AS FOLLOWS:

- A. DEVELOPMENT OF MORE EFFECTIVE LEADERSHIP.
- B. TRAINING OF NEW YOUNGER GENERATION OF LABOR
LEADERS.
- C. ORGANIZATION OF WORKERS IN PRIVATE INDUSTRIAL SECTOR.
- D. NEW LABOR LEGISLATION.

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 SAN JOSE 0340

8. THIS MESSAGE AND SAN JOSE 302 HAVE BEEN CLEARED
BY DOHERTY PARTY WITH FOLLOWING CLARIFICATIONS:

- A. FUNDING OF SUPPORT FOR FULL-TIME ORGANIZERS
IN COUNTRY FOLLOWING SPECIAL FRONT ROYAL TRAINING
PROGRAM WILL BE FROM AIFLD PRIVATE FUNDS, I.E.
NON-GOVERNMENT FUNDS (SOURCE OF WHICH, EMBASSY
UNDERSTANDS, IN LARGE MEASURE IS AFL/CIO).
- B. AIFLD COUNTRY DIRECTOR IN COSTA RICA WILL
NOT INVOLVE HIMSELF IN THESE ORGANIZATIONAL
ACTIVITIES--ALTHOUGH HE WILL KEEP A WEATHER EYE ON
THEM FOR REPORTING PURPOSES.
- C. AIFLD/WASHINGTON WILL STRUCTURE A FUNDS
TRANSFER PROCEDURE FOR THE SUPPORT OF THE ORGANIZERS
THAT DOES NOT REPEAT NOT INVOLVE THE AIFLD/CPD OR COUNTRY
PROGRAM.
- D. "UNION-TO-UNION" TERMINOLOGY USED IN REFTTEL,
PARAGRAPH 3, REFERS TO TIES STRICTLY BETWEEN UNIONS IN
GENERIC SENSE. IT IS NOT MEANT TO REFER SPECIFICALLY TO ITS.

9. COMMENT: GOCR COMMITMENT TO FUND FULL-TIME LEADERSHIP IN CCTD IS A BREAKTHROUGH AND, WITH POSSIBILITIES FOR FULL-TIME ORGANIZERS, GOES TO CRUX OF DEMOCRATIC LABOR'S PROBLEMS IN COSTA RICA. EMBASSY, USAID, AND AIFLD HEARTENED BY GOCR APPROACH AND CONSIDER IT MOST HEALTHY DEVELOPMENT IN COSTA RICAN LABOR SCENE IN RECENT YEARS. NEXT MOVE IS GOCR'S--THE
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FORMATION OF THE NEW "ASSOCIATION" TO WORK IN LABOR AND UNIVERSITY MATTERS.

10. ACTION REQUESTED:

A. APPROVAL REQUESTED FOR VISIT OF DANIEL MONTENEGRO TO COME TO COSTA RICA IN MID-FEBRUARY TO WORK WITH CCTD AND OTHER DEMOCRATIC LEADERSHIP. EMBASSY, USAID, AND AIFLD CONCUR. (REFTEL, PARAGRAPH 4.A.).

B. APPROVAL REQUESTED FOR CHOICE OF FIVE VERY CAREFULLY SELECTED TRADE UNIONISTS FROM CCTD AND INDEPENDENTS FOR SPECIAL TRAINING COURSE IN ORGANIZING AT FRONT ROYAL (REFTEL, PARAGRAPH 4.B.). EMBASSY UNDERSTANDS THESE INDIVIDUALS WOULD BE SUPPORTED BY AIFLD PRIVATE, NON-GOVERNMENT FUNDS FOR 9-12 MONTHS AFTER THEIR RETURN TO PERMIT THEM TO WORK FULL TIME IN ORGANIZING. EMBASSY ALSO UNDERSTANDS THAT THESE INDIVIDUALS WOULD NOT REPEAT NOT RECEIVE THEIR SUPPORT FUNDS IN COUNTRY THROUGH AIFLD/CPD OR AIFLD COUNTRY PROGRAM.
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